

# The *Soundoff*

**EUREKA!** Treasure Hunters Club, Inc.



V. 43 I. 12

December 2015

Search With Care!

Visit Our Club On The Internet At <http://www.eurekathc.com>

Sunday, November 15th, 2015, was a mild, beautiful sunny day with a little snow left over in the shaded areas of Milliken Park in Centennial. Milliken is bordered on the south side by the High-line Canal with its tall cottonwoods and was a

great place for a late fall hunt. The hunt field spanned a sloping, open grass area dotted with trees and a partial snow field.

There were plenty of interesting coins to search out which included: V Nickels, Canadian Quarters, Standing Liberty Quarters, a Peace Dollar, Barber Halves, an 1867 2 Cents, Barber Dimes, Large Cents,

## ***Cornucopia of Coins***

By Cindy Bockenstedt



Indian Head Cents, Mercury Dimes, Clad Quarters, Dimes and Nickels, and a Dos Pesos gold coin (along with 3 small gold colored foreign coins to throw people off-ask Van Romero about that). Also, there were several Gold-N-Detector \$2.50 tokens, a Spyderco token and some \$5 King Soopers Gift Cards.

Thirty hunters showed up and paid their \$15 entry fee. John Cornelisse, our treasurer, checked people in and collected the fee from those who did not sign up in advance.

Red and Green Chili with crackers and tortillas started

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*(Continued from page 1)*

off lunch. A few people brought desserts and the club supplied bottled water and sodas. The Red Chili was a hit for sure.

Ron and Mary Norden stopped by as guests, but did not hunt. It was great to visit with both of them.

The hunt lasted just under an hour. We reconvened and checked if all the good targets were found. They were, and John Olson had the Spyderco token, and Steve Muehlbauer found the Dos Pesos. A few more targets were found on a clean up hunt, but soon only native targets were being popped out.

Thanks to everyone who helped plant, brought desserts, hauled tables, photographed, cleaned up, and generally helped out. I couldn't have held this hunt without John Olson, John Cornelisse, Chris Davis, Jane Reed, Sheri Muehlbauer and several others.

Several people had trouble with their equipment, and some needed new batteries. Several members came to the rescue. After the hunt a couple of items were left behind. If you are missing equipment please contact me, as I have your items.



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Drawing tickets are \$1 each, take a chance.

### Joining Eureka! Membership Dues

Yearly dues are \$30 per individual or \$36 for a family membership. Please go to [Eurekathc.com](http://Eurekathc.com) and download and complete the application form. Membership dues can be paid to the treasurer at the regular monthly meetings.



[Click here for membership application link.](#)

Baseball caps with the Eureka! logo are available for \$10.00. Metal detector lapel pins are \$5.00 and Eureka! window decals are \$2.00.

### TREASURE HUNTER'S CODE OF ETHICS

- I WILL respect private property and do no treasure hunting without the owner's permission.
- I WILL fill all excavations.
- I WILL appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources, wildlife, and private property.
- I WILL use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times.
- I WILL build fires in designated or safe places only.
- I WILL leave gates as found.
- I WILL remove and properly dispose of any trash that I find.
- I WILL NOT litter.
- I WILL NOT destroy property, buildings, or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
- I WILL NOT tamper with signs, structural facilities, or equipment.



# About *Soundoff*

*Soundoff* is the official newsletter of the Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club, Inc. (Eureka!). Mailing Address: PO Box 101385, Denver, CO 80250-1385.

Opinions expressed in *Soundoff* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the club or its members. Publication of information in *Soundoff* constitutes no guarantee of accuracy. Use of any information found in this publication is at the sole risk of the user. Neither Eureka!, nor its officers, nor *Soundoff*, nor its editors or contributors assume any liability for damages resulting from use of information in this publication. *Soundoff* is typically placed on the club's website the evening of the first Friday of the month.

## Submissions

Articles, letters and short items of interest on prospecting, detecting and treasure hunting topics are welcomed and encouraged. All items submitted for publication are subject to editing. Submittals for publication or correction of errors may be made by e-mail in ASCII text format or MS Word. All article submissions must be received by the editor no later than the deadline of the month (see calendar) for inclusion in the next month's issue. Include publication information on articles clipped from other publications. *Let's hear your story, ideas or tips - Cindy - your *Soundoff* editor.*

## Copyright

Unless otherwise noted, other nonprofit groups may reprint or quote from any articles appearing in *Soundoff* without prior permission, provided that proper author and publication credits are given and that a copy of the publication in which the article appears is sent at no cost to Eureka! at the above mailing address.

## Advertising

Classified business-card-sized text advertising is free to members for non-business ads. Commercial display ads are available to anyone at the following charges: business card size, \$6.00 per month; 1/4 page, \$12.00 per month; 1/2 page, \$24.00 per month; full page, \$48.00 per month. Advertisers are encouraged to take out ads for 12 months and receive a 3-month discount. No other discounts apply. The treasurer must receive any required payments for commercial ads prior to their inclusion.

## About Eureka!

Eureka! is a Denver-based, Colorado nonprofit organization established in 1973 for the enjoyment of metal detecting, electronic prospecting and treasure hunting. Its purpose is to provide an educational and social forum of mutual benefit for members. Eureka! holds a monthly meeting and conducts various special presentations, hunts and seminars. Members have voting privileges. Membership includes access to all general meetings, selected seminars and outings. Annual dues run April to March and are \$30 for single adult membership, \$36 for a family membership and \$15 for Junior membership. Pro-rating of dues are done for new members joining the club after the April 1 dues date. Club meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at the Clement Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado. Come early to socialize.

**Next Club Meeting**  
**2nd Friday of December, 7:30pm**  
at the  
**Clement Community Center**  
1580 Yarrow Street  
(NW of Wadsworth and Colfax)  
Lakewood, Colorado 80214  
Hotline: (303) 595-5448  
[www.eurekathc.com](http://www.eurekathc.com)

**Eureka! Breakfast Club:** The Eureka! Breakfast Club will meet the First Friday and the Third Saturday every month. Everyone is invited!

Contact Bill Abercrombie 303 525-0504 if you are interested in meeting for breakfast and then going out metal detecting with other club members.

If you want to learn more about your detector or how to detect, or cement friendships, this is a great opportunity to tap into other member's experience or to get together for a fun outing.



Report  
by Chris Davis

The Eureka! Breakfast Club met on Nov. 6. Nine individuals attended, including a couple of newcomers, Steve and Judy Wrede. It was a bit nippy early but warmed up nicely. After a fine breakfast, we all ambled on over to Westwood Park off of Kentucky. This is the third time we have been there, but always seem to do well. Last visit, I found a gold ring. This time Randy found a nice silver ring. John C. got a handful of quarters that had been in the ground a while. Just goes to show, a place is never hunted out. There is always something missed, and parks replenish themselves as folks continue to lose things.

The Nov. 21 get-together was cancelled due to poor weather.



**Wheat Ridge** requires a permit to metal detect in their city. **No detecting is allowed October-March.** Permits allow detecting April-September.



# LuLubelle's Lost Bling Treasure Puzzle

By  
Bill Chapman

A cryptogram is an encoded message. The code used is called a simple substitution cypher. This means that the message is encoded by replacing each character in the message with a letter of the alphabet. Every time a particular character occurs in the message, it is replaced with the same code letter. Word spacing and punctuation are not changed.

Some people like to solve cryptograms much like some people like to do crossword puzzles. The cryptogram is solved by looking for frequently used characters and clues provided by letter patterns and word spacing. Solve the cryptogram shown below, find LuLu's bling and bring it to the next regular Eureka! meeting to collect a prize.

EZTWOS RBAF AHHO FEH SVVX XWOVAZBP ZF  
FEH CVTWAH NWWFNH NBNBQHNNH XPVTH FV FEH  
CBAHBC VK OZFBPH ZOX ALWHOLH FV AHH FEH  
PHZN FEWOS. ZA AEH XPVTH FEPVBSE LWFD  
MZPU. Z AFZFBH VK PVQHPP QBPOA LVBSEF  
EHP HDH. AEH GZNUHX QD ZO HNHTHO WOLE  
OZTZN XZENSPHO ZPFWNNHPD MWHLH FV AHH  
Z MVHF MHZAZOF QVPO. ZA AEH XWX AEH  
AOZSSHX EHP OHLU LEZWO ZOX EHP QNWOS  
KHNN WOFV FEH SPZAA.

The bling is no longer lost

#### Last month's solution:

In November Little Lulubelle had inspiration. She studied Colorado gold discoveries. In doing so she went to a Denver park near Charlie Fultons residence where she found a large rock with a brass plaque that read in

part "one mile north of this point gold was discovered". She got the point but lost her bling.

**Park:** Inspiration Point Park

**Prize:** 5 Golden Dollars. Sponsored by Louise Smyth of Gold-N-Detectors.



## Prez Sez

By  
John Olson

### **DOUBLE YOUR PAY!!!!**

Yes, you can double your pay. The Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club is looking for new board members for the next term. First, I want to thank those who already stepped up as nominees for the 4 positions available but we need a couple more.

The word 'volunteer' conjures up visions of Ft. Polk, Louisiana when I was in basic training. I volunteered a few times and many times I had no idea what I was volunteering for. The drill sergeant would only ask for a volunteer but would not always explain what you were volunteering for. Sometimes it would be guard duty at night, maybe serving meals to officers, or just KP. Yes, kitchen police. That meant peeling hundreds of pounds of potatoes or cleaning dishes and the mess hall for the hundreds in your company. KP was never fun, but I didn't mind patrolling the perimeter in the quiet of the night while the rest of the camp slept.

Recruiting new board members is important for the club because it adds diversity. We have a great board of directors now and they have done a tremendous job keeping the club running smooth but some board members have fulfilled their desire to be part of the executive board and wish to let others serve in their position. Eureka! is always looking for new ideas for club activities or maybe an idea that would make an activity easier or more exciting for the membership. You as a member are the lifeblood of the club and you as a board member can keep this blood flowing and keep the club strong.

The pay for board members will be doubled for the next two years! Let me see..... \$0.00 multiplied by 2 equals..... I can promise you won't always be peeling potatoes!

Thanks,

John O.

# F I N D O F T H E M O N T H

## GOLD CATEGORY

Ron Erickson..... "Nana" 10K Ring  
**Norm Ruggles.....Men's 10K Ring with tiny Diamond**

## JEWELRY CATEGORY

John Hinton..... Tiny Turquoise Earring Face  
Randy Williamson ..... Toe Ring "India"  
Chuck Hedberg ..... Silver Puzzle Ring  
Roy Neys ..... Small Silver Ring  
Joe Johnston..... Earring with 2 Turquoise Stones  
**Randy Sable..... Large Men's Braided Silver Ring**

## COIN CATEGORY

Randy Williamson ..... 1993 Hong Kong \$2  
Randy Williamson ..... 1918 Mercury Dime  
Mary Anne Bower..... 1964 Kennedy Half Dollar  
Chuck Hedberg ..... 1899 V Nickel  
Cindy Bockenstedt ..... 1892 Indian Head Cent  
**Alan Bravo ..... 1883 Indian Head Cent**

## TOKEN CATEGORY

Norm Ruggles ..... Baseball Batter / 1 Replay  
Randy Williamson ..... Silver Dollar Hotel, Madame / 1 Screw  
**Chuck Hedberg..... K O & M / 10¢**

## ARTIFACT CATEGORY

Cindy Bockenstedt ..... Honoring Veteran's Medallion  
Cindy Bockenstedt ..... Pre 1912 Studebaker Manufacturer's Plate  
Sue Ruggles..... Old Belt Buckle  
Mary Anne Bower..... 1974 Hot Wheels Van  
James Merritt ..... Meteorite?  
Chuck Hedberg ..... Early Yale Padlock  
**Van Romero..... 1911 Boy Scout Good Luck Medallion**  
**Chris Davis ..... Pocket Watch**

## FIND-OF-THE-MONTH CATEGORIES

**Gold:** natural gold (flakes, nuggets, wire) stamped karat alloy content or obvious custom alloy item.

**Jewelry:** objects of metal often set with gems and worn for personal adornment, except jewelry qualifying for the Gold Category.

**Coin:** a piece of metal issued by governmental authority as money (includes gold coins of any nation).

**Token:** a piece resembling a coin issued as money by some person or body not of a governmental authority; can be redeemed for services or specified items.

**Artifact:** simple object showing human workmanship or modification.



# Find of the Month Winners - November

## COIN - Alan Bravo

### 1883 Indian Head Cent



Alan was hunting a south Denver scrape off when he found this Indian about 3 inches down. He was using a 10inch DD coil on his White's V3i.

## ARTIFACT - Chris Davis and Van Romero

### Pocket Watch 1911 Boy Scout Token



Chris went to Texas for a football game and hit a local pond while there. His Minelab Excalibur with a 10 inch DD coil gave him an iffy signal while hunting in about 2 feet of water. He dug and came up with a pocket watch in his scoop. The time was stopped at "6:01".



Van found this good luck token put out by the Excelsior Shoe Company as a surface find while picking pinon. He saw half of the roundness poking out of the ground.

## GOLD - Norm Ruggles

### Men's 10K Ring with Diamond

This gold ring was found at a high school in south Denver at a depth of 3 inches. Norm was using his Garrett Ace 350.



## JEWELRY - Randy Sable

### Men's Braided Silver Ring



One and 1/2 inches down in a park in Brighton is where Randy found this big silver ring using his White's XLT with a 9 inch coil.

## TOKEN - Chuck Hedberg

### KO&M / 10 Cents In Trade

This time Chuck-a-luck was using a Garrett AT Pro with a stock coil. He dug down 6 inches on a trail between Victor and Cripple Creek and pulled up this maverick token.



## In-Town Hunt Information

In-Town club hunts are meant to be fun, first and foremost. They provide a context outside of the meetings for fellowship with club members. To put on an in-town hunt you need to:

- Schedule with the Hunt Coordinator or President (see the contact list).
- Provide the Hunt Coordinator a plan.
- Send the hunt flyer to the newsletter editor in an appropriate format for insertion into the newsletter (see the contact list).
- Provide flyers at the monthly meeting.
- Ensure the hunt rules are discussed BEFORE the hunt.
- Police the hunt.
- Decide if the hunt is a members only or an open hunt (non-members may hunt).
- Write a story for the newsletter and send it and accompanying photos to the newsletter editor prior to that month's deadline.

To ensure the continuation of this hobby and to provide the best impression

of Eureka! and its membership, you, as hunt master, MUST enforce all rules, including:

1. Pouches to store finds and trash must be worn and used at all times during the hunt.
2. All hunters must wear headphones.
3. Absolutely no tolerance of holes left open (a first warning, followed by a time-out or expulsion from the hunt).
4. Hunters digging and leaving trash of any sort on the hunt field will receive the same treatment discussed above.

All hunts will need to be okayed by Hunt Coordinator (see the contact list) prior to officially being put in the newsletter and put on.

Failure to follow the guidelines may result in hunts being cancelled.

Hunts may be paid for in advance. This helps the hunt master with planning for how much should be planted in the field. In case a person must miss the hunt, their prepaid fee may be refunded if they call the hunt master before the hunt and cancel, other circumstances will be reviewed. No refund will be given for just plain failure to show up to the hunt.

### **AMS Estate Liquidation**

**303-929-4530**

**[www.amsestate.com](http://www.amsestate.com)**

### **Estate Sales**

**Estate Liquidation ~ Appraisals ~ Initial Free Consultation**

## Upcoming Events

### DECEMBER EUREKA! MEETING

December 11, 2015 7:30pm  
Clement Community Center

**Bring:**

Nametags ~ thanks for wearing them to all Eureka! functions.

Cash ~ for drawings, hunts, hats...

Finds ~ to show.

Answers ~ to puzzles.

Ideas ~ for speakers, fun outings.

Snacks ~ as always, treats for the snack table are appreciated.

Nominations ~ for new Board Members.

### UPCOMING EUREKA! EVENTS

Dec 19, 2015 (Saturday) and  
Jan 1, 2016 (Friday)

Breakfast Club

Contact: Bill Abercrombie 303 525-0504 for place and time to meet.

Dec 13, 2015

Holiday Party

White Fence Farm

5:30pm

Thank you to everyone who RSVP and paid, see you the second Sunday of December.

Contact: Nancy Faires 303 368-1356



### LINKED WEB SITES

[www.mdhtalk.org](http://www.mdhtalk.org) Detecting Hobby Talk

[www.fmdac.org](http://www.fmdac.org) Federation of Metal Detector & Archaeological Clubs

<http://www.relicroundup.blogspot.com>

Relic Roundup Radio show (hosted by Jeff Lubbert 7pm Mondays), and blog.

[TenaciousTreasureTracker.com](http://TenaciousTreasureTracker.com)

Chris Davis showed his finds from his England Trip at the November Eureka! Meeting, featuring his first gold coin.



Soundoff December, 2015

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## Secretary's Report By Nancy Faires

November 13, 2015

President John Olson called the Eureka! club meeting to order. Everyone was welcomed and the officers and board members were introduced. There were 2 new members present and 1 guest.

John Cornelisse presented the Treasurer's report.

The Club is selling \$5 tickets for an XP Deus.

There was no speaker. John Olson showed a video, *Ghosts of the West*.

December – Jan Hallez and Nancy Faires  
The Eureka! Holiday Party will be Sunday, December 13th at the White Fence Farm, Lakewood, CO, 5:30 PM.

Dinners are \$27 per person. Fill out a menu and pay before December 4th.

Lulu's Bling - sponsored by Louise Smyth, Gold-N-Detectors  
Alan Bravo found the Bling and received 5 golden dollars as his reward.  
Thank you to Louise for sponsoring this hunt.

National Hunt  
It was decided that we will work on this hunt for 2017.

Linda Erickson and Brian Henry were nominated for 2 of the 4 Board openings for 2016-2018. Elections will be held at the December meeting.



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*(Continued from page 12)*

Club T-shirts are available for \$12 each: S, M, L, XL, 1X, 2X, 3X – orders will be placed once a quarter.

#### General Drawing Winners

1851 O Seated half dollar – Nancy Porter  
1857 Flying eagle cent – Chuck Hedberg  
Dos pesos - Chuck Hedberg  
Blackhawk 1 oz silver round – Dave Redman  
1905 Barber quarter – Jay Reed  
1976 S proof Kennedy half – Abel Espinoza  
1955 Franklin half dollar – Roy Neys  
1876 S Seated dime – Sherri Muehlbauer  
1851 Large cent – Brian Henry  
1862 Indian head cent – Burt Downie  
1959 D Washington quarter – Steve Muehlbauer  
1915 S Barber half dollar – Gary Porter



#### Second Chance Drawing

Gary Porter – book  
Randy Williamson - book

#### Membership Drawing Winner – Bernice Ortiz

Holiday Drawing – 1883 S Morgan silver dollar – Pat Lucero

#### Finds of the Month Winners

Gold category – Norm Ruggles  
Coin category – Alan Bravo  
Token category – Chuck Hedberg  
Artifact category – Chris Davis and Van Romero  
Jewelry category – Randy Sable

Thank you to everyone who brought food tonight.

Thank you to Linda Erickson for taking notes in my absence.



## Look Who's Joining the Fun

By Chris Davis

The Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club would like to welcome new members, Steve and Judy Wrede. They learned about our club from the website. The Wrede's have moved around a bit. They are from California, moved to Colorado Springs, lived in England for 4 years and have been in Denver for 10 years now. Steve is currently retired, but worked as a field engineer for Digital Computer and HP. Judy is a



tile artist and enjoys various crafts. Steve is new to metal detecting. He brought a Bounty Hunter to the Breakfast Club, but has since exchanged it for a Garrett 350.



**Westminster** requires a permit to metal detect in their city. It will be good for a year.

See Angie at the lower level of City Hall.

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs from 7:00am to 6:00pm.

Please follow the City's guidelines and show that we, as detectorist, are a responsible group.

### December 2015

4th - Breakfast Club  
4th - Newsletter Published  
9th - Board Meeting 6:30pm  
11th - General Meeting 7:30pm  
13th - Christmas Dinner 5:30pm  
19th - Breakfast Club  
26th - Soundoff Deadline

### January 2016

1st - Breakfast Club  
1st - Newsletter Published  
6th - Board Meeting 6:30pm  
8th - General Meeting 7:30pm  
10th - Club Hunt or Outing  
16th - Breakfast Club  
29th - Soundoff Deadline



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**Danner Snake Boots**  
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**Roy Morris 720-325-6822**

## Advertising

Classified business-card-sized text advertising is free to members for non-business ads. Commercial display ads are available to anyone at the following charges:

Business card size, \$6.00 per month  
 1/4 page, \$12.00 per month  
 1/2 page, \$24.00 per month  
 full page, \$48.00 per month

Advertisers are encouraged to take out ads for 12 months and receive a 3-month discount. No other discounts apply. The treasurer must receive any required payments for commercial ads prior to their inclusion.

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STEVEN BRIERLEY Jeweler, Gemologist 303-235-0856 8550 W. Colfax Ave. • Lakewood, CO 80215		Tues-Fri: 10-6 Sat: 10-4

## Rocky Mountain Coin

### Denver Location

303-777-GOLD (4653)

538 S. Broadway  
 Denver, CO 80209

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30 AM-5:00 PM

Saturdays 9:30 AM-3:00 PM

### Greenwood Village Location

303-768-8042

9625 E. Arapahoe RD.

Greenwood Village, CO 80112

Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 AM-6:00 PM

Saturdays By Appointment

## GOLD-N-DETECTORS

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<b>Contact List</b>			
<b>Officers</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
President	John Olson	(719) 588-7021	jncolson1969@gmail.com
Vice President	Jeff Lubbert	(303) 618-5179	coindigr@hotmail.com
Secretary	Nancy Faires	(303) 368-1356	photo518@msn.com
Treasurer	John Cornelisse	(303) 250-3335	joshar5@msn.com
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<b>Volunteers</b>			
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HART	Steve Rex	Microphone	John Hinton
Hunt Coordinator	Jeff Lubbert	Greeter	Board Member
Finds Table	Bernice Ortiz	Greeter	Board Member
Finds Table	Van Romero	Speakers	Jeff Lubbert
Drawing Table	Diane Dengah	Orientation	Board Member
Drawing Table	Jan Hallez	Coin Purchases	Jeff Lubbert
<b>For general information contact the hotline: (303) 595-5448</b>			
<b>Visit our club on the Internet: <a href="http://www.eurekathc.com">http://www.eurekathc.com</a></b>			



# Eureka! Club Members Service Directory

## RL Vending Inc.

*We Treat you Right!*

Richard and Linda Kibler  
303-517-1189  
rlkibler@earthlink.net



American Digger  
Magazine - Relic Roundup

Co-host - Jeff Lubbert

www.relicroundup.blogspot.com

Phone: 678-439-1863

Skype: AmericanDigger

Monday nights 9:00 pm EST  
(7:00 pm Mountain Time Zone)

Personal contact:

coindigr@hotmail.com

Phone: 303-487-0438

Cell: 303-618-5179

Skype: jeff.lubbert

## Construction Services & Supply

Kitchen/Bath Remodels \* Basements \* Tile Work

Terry Weatherly 303 748 7288

12010 W 76th Dr, Arvada, CO 80005

Constructionservicesandsupply@gmail.com

Fax 303 420 8548

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Brian Henry 303-451-6870



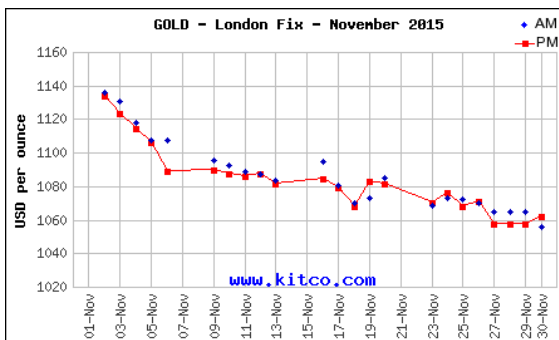
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LET US FIND YOUR LOST RINGS AND THINGS

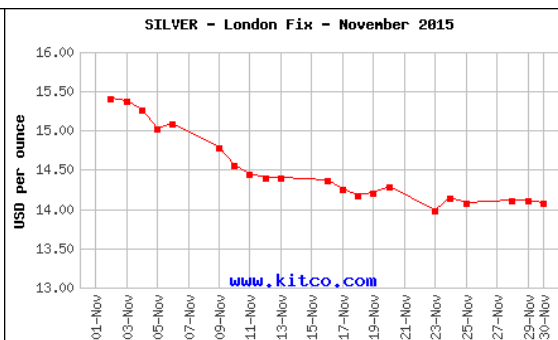
John Hinton  
303-619-4313

Tom Zawatski  
720-206-8671

## Gold Prices



## Silver Prices



EUREKA!  
**HOLIDAY DINNER**  
Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 PM  
White Fence Farm  
6263 W Jewell Ave  
Lakewood, CO



\$27 per person  
Sign up and pay by December 4<sup>th</sup>  
Contact Nancy Faires  
303-368-1356

# My Fall Trip to Siscatchiwah\*

by Bill Chapman (aka Spectrum Bill)

This year, for the first time in twenty years, I actually left the store for more than a week and did some travelling. In the April, 2015 *Soundoff*, I had written an article entitled, "Why Do YOU Metal Detect?". In that article, I emphasized the fun aspect of the hobby and introduced the Eureka! Club to the Stealth Diggers. The Stealth Diggers are a group of relic hunters working in Siscatchiwah, New Hampshire. I discovered them through their YouTube videos. Their effort on behalf of our hobby demonstrated that they have great fun doing the hobby properly. My conclusion at the article's end was, "These boys are FUN!". Well, let me say here and now that my initial conclusion was completely underwhelming – they are WAY more fun than what I observed on the videos. Sit down on this here log, get closer to the fire and pull up a cold one for here is the story of how I found myself in the woods of Siscatchiwah digging with the Stealth Diggers.

One evening in mid September, prior to my birthday, I was sitting in front of the computer watching the latest Stealth Digger video episode on YouTube. I was totally engrossed in the program when my wife, Margaret, surprised me by coming to the doorway and asked, "What do you want for your birthday this year?" After barely a moment's hesitation, I replied, "What I would like most would be to hunt with these guys," and I pointed to the monitor. "Then, why don't you ask them," she retorted.



I had corresponded with the group by e-mail commenting about the wonderful quality of their video channel. Cliff McGaughey and I had purchased some Stealth Digger merchandise and music CDs from them on eBay. We both had heard them as guests on Relic Round Up co-hosted by our club's own Jeff Lubbert and on Josh Kimmel's Beyond Site & Sound programs. As a 'thank you' to the group, we had sent a fun gift box of items relevant to what they do on their programs. But as popular and as busy as these guys are, I felt that such a request might be an intrusion. Digger Charlie put me at ease when he sent me an e-mail with the subject, I Would

Like to Shake Your Hand. Writing back and forth, we were able to figure a date for me to show up in Siscatchiwah to meet with and hunt with the gang. I was floating as in a dream for nearly a month.

\*Siscatchiwah is the name chosen for a long lost area of colonial inhabitation consisting of home sites, cellar holes, barn sites, fields, mill sites, roads and

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rock walls. It was inhabited from the mid 1700s through the late 1800s at which time many of the inhabitants moved westward, leaving behind their colonial existence. At that time, New Hampshire was 20% forest and 80% inhabited ground. Currently, it is completely reversed with 80% being uninhabited heavily forested areas. It is in these state-owned forested areas that the Stealth Diggers are in their element. Virtually everything the guys (and gals) find are donated to and are on display in a local history museum.

It was agreed that in order to meet the majority of the Stealth Digger core group, I should show up on Sunday the 18th of October. Sunday was the best day for most of the guys to be available. Then on Monday, Digger Charlie and Keebler, who didn't have to work that day, would take me out with them alone. Hmm...three go out and two come back; gives one pause.

I had decided to drive the trip for a number of reasons. First, I needed to take a lot of metal detecting gear and some gifts. There were some gifts for the Stealth Diggers, but as my brother's family lived in nearby Connecticut, I had the family Christmas gifts as well. When it comes to detecting gear, I had backups to backups. Could you imagine trying to board a commercial flight with a custom made relic shovel manufactured by our club president, John Olson? Secondly, I had just received some of Digger Charlie's music CDs and being alone in the vehicle would allow me to listen in peace, but not necessarily in quiet. In preparation for the trip, I mapped a route and had made reservations at planned stops each night. Charlie had given me his contact numbers and address so I was well prepared as I left Golden early on Wednesday morning, October 14. Three days, 1,950 miles and ten states later, I pulled into my destination, an inn in southern New Hampshire. It was only about 5 miles from Charlie's house which is also the location of the Stealth Shack.

I had allowed an extra travel day in case of trouble, so I arrived on Friday evening, a day earlier than expected. It was peak leaf-viewing season in New England! The hardwood and pine forests of Pennsylvania, upstate New York, Vermont and New Hampshire were absolutely striking in their colors, mixtures and scenic beauty. The sun was about to set when I telephoned Charlie from my room at the inn to announce my arrival. "Some of the group is here at the Shack," he told me, "Come right on over."



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As it was off-season at the inn, mine was the only vehicle in the parking lot. It was a relatively cool 40 degrees but I didn't feel it. I forgot all about eating dinner there as I had figured I would do and immediately found myself on my way to Charlie's. I soon found that I was lost in the dark on the back roads of Siscatchiwah. Even with the Garmin™ directing me, I had managed to pass up Charlie's driveway twice in the dark. "Recalculating," said Garmin™ in her mechanical voice that I imagined was actually saying, "turn around stupid". I phoned Charlie from a prominent nearby building and was told that I was only one driveway away from his. His was pretty well disguised by trees and vegetation, but Charlie was outside with a flashlight to help guide me in. As I pulled in I could see four figures I knew well from their videos, standing in the driveway. There was Charlie, Keebler, Keebler San and Beardon at the Shack that evening. More about the character names later. A fifth person who was introduced as JET, a long-time friend of Charlie's was there also.



I was properly attired in my Stealth Diggers Stealthologist t-shirt (created by Brian Henry) when I exited my vehicle and stepped around it. I was immediately greeted by a shower of spoons clanking and clattering on the pavement. A fitting welcome indeed! I was immediately gladdened to be included in one of the Stealth Digger rituals. The fun was already beginning. As Charlie approached, I said, "I would like to shake your hand also," and did so heartily. The guys helped me unload some boxes of

items I had brought with me: a case of George Killian's (fresh from the brewery); packages of pork jerky which I knew to be a favorite Shack Snack; and some gifts for each member of the core group. I was offered a place to relax in the Shack, after signing the table as all members and guests had done before. Then I melted into the setting that I had seen so many times on the Stealth Digger videos. I was made to feel so welcome and was quite at home, after three long days behind the wheel.

Some of the gifts I had brought were custom made by fellow Eureka! member, Brian Henry (see his advertisement in the newsletter). It was agreed to set the individual gifts aside until the entire gang would be there on Sunday. My early arrival was not going to mean a day of rest from my travels, however. Charlie did not want my time in Siscatchiwah to be wasted. That very evening he called together an impromptu hunt for Saturday. The group responded with vigor. How great are these guys?

In order to participate in a brand new SD ritual, I had been asked to bring a spoon

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to add to the “spoon hall of fame”. I added my choice of the several I had brought and placed it in line hanging from a ceiling beam. Beardon took a liking to another of the three, one with holes in the handle. He proceeded to macramé a handle for it with Para cord. He also, while the attended group discussed the definition of whether or not his art form was in fact actually macramé, handcrafted a Beardon O’Diggerton’s Bad Ass Skull Key Chain (available on eBay) and presented it to me. I immediately put it to use on my room key.



Then as we chewed on some jerky, I was asked to occupy the hot seat in the video corner of the Shack. It is from this corner that most of the videos are introduced. There I sat with my Stealthologist t-shirt as the flood light was turned on. “An interrogation”, I murmured, “bring on the rubber hoses”. As Charlie and the group had pronounced both Cliff and me to be “Stealthologists,” it was time to prove my degree. Most of the questions were about the content and details of the episodes, which at the time of this writing number 108 plus a number of shorter “quick dig” videos.

The panel present proclaimed me proficient in my knowledge, although I did miss one answer, and handed me the bugle. This is another SD ritual where guests are required to play sounds on the bugle after being interviewed. Digging deep into my bugling merit badge memory, I emitted three clear notes. “Those are the best sounds we have heard yet,” said Beardon. I had passed the tests. We wrapped up the evening around 10:00pm and I let Garmin™ guide me back to the inn through the darkness.

Tired? Not a bit of it! I awoke early Saturday morning for a 6:30am breakfast – it was complimentary with the room. I left in plenty of time to make the agreed upon 8:30am meeting at the Shack. The building where I was staying was but a short walk to the main inn for breakfast; my short walk left footprints in the light morning snow. SNOW!!! I was not expecting this, but what is a little snow among friends.



I was prompt and properly attired when I arrived at the Shack. Joining the guys from Friday night’s revelry were Just Bob and Knoodles. Following introductions, Charlie, camera running, asked me where I would like to hunt on short notice. Having followed the group for some time I knew of a place they had literally pounded but which had yielded more than 40 coins plus numerous buttons and other artifacts. I felt

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my skill level and detector would still yield something. Nothing is ever hunted out! "I would like to hunt the Cellar Hole Swimming Hole," I answered. What I did not know was that just a few weeks prior to my arrival, Charlie and Beardon had spent an entire day pounding that site once again producing several good finds. That day's hunt video had not yet been posted. It can now be seen as Episode #106, *The Continuum*.

Charlie and Beardon knew that the site had been recently revisited and figured that we wouldn't find much. As a considerate host, he allowed for a couple of hours to prove it. I should mention that Charlie was just recovering from a cold and Keebler was a few days behind with one of his own and his symptoms were agonizingly apparent. He felt miserable!

So the seven of us piled into two vehicles and headed toward the Cellar Hole Swimming Hole. As I had surmised from earlier videos, it was rather close, about a 10 minute ride from the Shack. I was honored to ride shotgun in the Keeblermobile (KIT) as the guest of honor. It was also my duty to assist in steering KIT should the occasion arise, and those occasions did arise.



I should point out here, exactly what a cellar hole is. Often, colonial settlers dug a hole into the ground as a basement or cellar for cold storage, dry storage or protection. The house was then built over the cellar hole. The size of the hole varied but most often it was not the same size of the house but was within its footprint. Some were stone lined and others were not. When the people abandoned the place, the house collapsed, leaving a hole and some stones or brick from the chimney which also collapsed with time. The holes we see may be well defined or merely a depression in the ground. In both cases, the forest and nature are reclaiming the site. The well defined Cellar Hole Swimming Hole was located less than 20 yards from a popular unpaved road near a parking area where a path lead to a swim beach of a large pond. One could park and literally after a few steps fall into the cellar hole, it was that close. Charlie and Keebler explained the "signs" of the site, those features to look for when identifying old home sites. Keebler, not feeling well, left us promising to return in a couple of hours after going home for medication and some rest.

We each found an area and started searching. The site was very iron rich. I was working the pond side (north) of the cellar hole some 15 to 20 feet from it. I dug nail after nail, but loved it! These were hand-forged colonial nails so I saved some.

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Charlie, Beardon and Keebler San were working about the same distance away from the hole on the east side. Knoodles was working north of me nearer the pond and Just Bob crossed the road to where the barn site had been and was out of sight. I honestly don't remember who called out first, but I believe it was me. In amongst the scattering of nails, I had a good signal. It turned out to be a gold or heavily gold-washed cufflink. The gold shone brilliantly through the dirt. Again, there is no such thing as a site being hunted out. Charlie, Beardon and Keebler San were virtually excavating their area. Charlie found a beautiful, fancy crotal bell, and while digging only feet away. Keebler San unearthed a complete, undamaged colonial green glass whisky flask. I found a 10" flat bastard file, and not to be out-done, Charlie found a 6" matching file; and then another; and then a third. We thought we had landed in the middle of a colonial hardware store.

I next found a silver toned suspender clasp still within the heavy iron section of the colonial hardware store. As I was examining this item, Charlie shouted, "Bingo!" The word "bingo" means "coin" in Stealth Digger lingo. So I hustled over to their area. There, sticking out of the embankment of freshly dug earth was certainly what appeared to be the edge of a large silver coin. "Wow", I exclaimed, "Congratulations Charlie". Charlie said, "Bill, as our guest, you get the honor of extracting it." So as Charlie videoed the extraction, I gently pulled the coin from the ground. Feeling only the edge I reported, "It has a reeded edge and the size is right for a half dollar." I then laid it flat in my hand. "A Kennedy", I exclaimed, "what is this coin doing here"? "Turn it over", someone suggested. When I did, I was looking at another bust of Kennedy. "This is a magician's coin; a two-headed half dollar," I stated. Then everyone laughed. They had all been in on the prank, but I was pretty unabashed. This was not the first two-headed coin I had found. It seems that I had become the unwitting victim of more Stealth Digger fun.

We were back to real detecting when a car stopped on the roadway near us. A young fellow of about 18 exited, metal detector in hand, and the car drove off. "Hey", said the stranger, "You're those Stealth Digger guys! I watch your YouTube videos. Got room for one more?" "Sure," said Charlie, "come join the fun." It turns out that Jeremy, a local fellow, had planned to come to this same spot having seen



and recognized it from the SD videos. His girlfriend dropped him off to return about 4:00, later that afternoon. He was made welcome, shook hands with the group, and drifted off toward where Knoodles was working.

After more time detecting for real targets, Keebler returned. The rest and cold medication had helped him a lot, but he didn't return alone. He

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was accompanied by a large pizza! The group broke for a little snack. During the break Jeremy walked up, declined pizza, but asked to borrow a pinpoint. I loaned him mine as I have a spare. Then, soon, we all were back at it. The finds seemed a bit more sporadic. I found a really large piece of iron which I added to their growing pile of iron targets. Knoodles found a small metal monkey which would hang upside down by its hooked tail. I found a small pocket watch, the innards long ago the victim of corrosion. Just Bob found an Indian Head penny but not much else at the barn site. That would turn out to be the only real coin find of the day. I had missed my goal to complete the Siscatchiwah challenge, but there are two more days left. This was a poor beginning to the challenge.

There is a challenge to everyone who hunts with the Stealth Diggers. Find three things: a colonial button, an oxen shoe and a spoon. So far, I had failed to find any of the three. I noticed a rather good sized pile of rocks to the northwest of the cellar hole. The cache hunter in me recognized this as a good hiding place. What would be better than a colonial era coin but a jar full of them? Almost immediately, after climbing up the pile, I received a good solid high response from under the rocks near the top. "Bingo," I thought to myself. After removing about the third large stone I saw the zinc lid of a ball canning jar nestled among the rocks. I was really excited now! I gently grasped the lid and pulled up ever so gently so as to not break the jar that certainly lay below the lid. To my surprise and chagrin, the lid lifted easily. There was no jar below the lid; only a couple of pieces of a broken kerosene lamp chimney. Rechecking the spot failed to reveal any additional metal targets. Bummer!

All too soon the daylight was fading away. Our two-hour hunt window had lasted all day long. My first cellar hole hunting experience had come to a close all too soon, but I was very happy to have such a great day with this great group. It was back to the shack by way of a nearby Zombie Pizza/Sandwich Shop (my treat) for pizza, Shack Snacks and good conversation on a myriad of topics. Jay Mo was at the Shack upon our return and I couldn't get enough interaction with everyone. Each member of the core group is so interesting.



Now about the members of the Stealth Digger core group and their names. Digger Charlie is the host. His residence is the location of the Stealth Shack where everyone meets once they can find his driveway. His sidekick in many of the current videos is Keebler (Henry) often accompanied by Keebler San (Kyle), Keebler's young-

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est son. There is also Thunder Chief (John), Just Bob (Bob), Beardon O'Diggerton (Nate), Trooper Bri (Brian), Jay Mo (Jay), Knoodles (John) and formerly Stoneman now simply "That Guy" (Brian). These nom-de-plums were either given by other core members, picked by the member himself, chosen by the Facebook group, or adapted by circumstance. Like most screen personalities, the nickname tends to be used while working and their actual names are used off-camera. By viewing videos that have a name in the title, you will be able to see how the majority of these names came about.



Another thing about Charlie, in addition to his skill as a videographer and editor, he is a talented musician. The music heard on the Stealth Digger video was written and performed by Charlie. He has four CDs available for sale on eBay. Search for "Stealth Diggers – CDs". The four albums are available at very reasonable prices and you get free shipping. The genre is classic rock and I, for one, certainly enjoy his musical styling. I have one set of discs at the store, another in the car and yet a third at the

home computer. You can bundle and save as they are highly collectible. This has been a shameless commercial plug, because I really enjoy his music. I think you will also. I'm listening to his music as I write this article.

With Saturday coming to a close, it was time to prepare for Sunday's adventure. It was also the day when I would meet the remaining three core group Stealth Diggers: Thunder Chief, Trooper Bri and That Guy. How much better could it get? Well, it certainly did but was nearly catastrophic for Lu, the white, long haired Shack Cat.

When I arrived at the shack Sunday morning, it was crisp. It was so crisp that the water in Charlie's bird baths was frozen solid. Nate and Jay were out in the front yard apparently looking for something. "What's up guys?" I asked. "Lu got out sometime last night," said Jay, "we've been looking for him but no luck." So I joined in the hunt. Charlie lives in a wooded area that harbors a number of different carnivores and he was quite concerned about Lu's chances for survival. Lu has always been an indoor cat. We looked at all the places near



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the house and Shack. Then we moved into the woods looking for evidence of Lu becoming prey, but found none. I walked both sides of the road. Henry and Kyle had arrived and drove up and down the roads farther than I walked. No luck! As much as we hated to, we gathered back at the Shack for introductions and distribution of the gifts I had brought.

Everyone seemed pleased to get some Christmas gifts neatly wrapped in Stealth Digger wrapping paper. In return, Nate had previously given me one of his key rings, and Jay gave me one of his home-made digging tools. Trooper Bri presented me with a Trucker Bomb made just for me with a warning that it was not to be consumed until after the New Year. It needed to age a bit. If this makes no sense, watch some of the videos. Look for the bottle labeled TBTB (Trooper Bri's Trucker Bomb). You'll soon understand. Charlie gave me three great albums that were begun with his band, The Third Life, and he finished. These three albums are not for sale on eBay. Sorry. I cherish all of these gifts and plan to have them on display at the store.

One unintended consequence from my gifts created additional work for Charlie. Just before leaving the Stealth Shack, the group posed for a photograph, proudly hoisting their new shiny white ceramic coffee mugs with their logo dye sublimated on it. Charlie then posted this photograph on their Facebook just before we departed. More about what happened at the end of the day when we returned.



We were joined by another guest, Andrew Richter. Soon we were loaded into several vehicles and were off to the first site. This site was one that Andy had suggested to the group. It boasted an enormous colonial road flanked on each side by long, massive stone walls. We moved into the woods and started searching. After some time, the finds being few, we gathered back at the vehicles. I did find one interesting button. Although not colonial, the military style "Boys Brigade" button was of considerable interest. The Boys Brigade, founded in 1883 by Sir William Smith is an interdenominational Christian youth organization conceived to combine drill and fun activities with Christian values.

Then after a snack we were off to examine another cellar hole. Unlike yesterday's hole, this one was way off the beaten path. We had to park the vehicles and walk in, about half a mile, steeply up hill (both ways). I can walk the distance but the loose rock and climb caused me to fall back while Kyle, a cross country runner, ran up the hill. Boy, did I feel old. Trooper Bri fell back with me feigning that these

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climbs were tough, which it was, but I knew he was just helping me along. When we got to the cellar hole, on the left-hand side of the road, Digger Charlie explained the signs. He showed us that there had been a barn on the right-hand side, across the road opposite from the house. While waiting for me, some of the guys had been looking for a culture (again, watch the videos). Someone had gotten a good signal under a flat stone in the area of the barn site. After some back and forth banter, Jay Mo was given the honor of finding and extracting this target. Does this sound familiar? Remember, Jay Mo wasn't with us yesterday. As we gathered around to see the "find" made, Jay Mo moved the stone and dug his culture. "Wow!" he said, "a gold ring...with a finger in it!" Sure enough it was a gold ring being worn by a rubber finger. It seems that guests are not the only ones to fall victim to an SD prank.



After we had our laugh, Digger Charlie explained that while I was walking up to the hole, that the crew had removed the tree limbs and large debris from it. This was a very nice, rather large and well-formed stone lined cellar hole. Although from experience, we know that most of the items found near a cellar hole are found on the outside of the rim of the hole, I was given the honor of going into the hole first. As anticipated, most of the floor yielded nothing. That is until I ran the base of the wall. Near one corner I got a good signal, go figure, under a flat stone. Now, Jay Mo had just been victimized in a very similar way. I couldn't detect that the stone had been displaced, so I moved it and unearthed a spoon. "Spoon," I shouted! Digger Charlie came over to record the find and he said, "You know what you gotta do." Yes I did, and I tossed the spoon away behind me. This is a ritual that I was very pleased to perform. I had completed one third of the Siscatchiwah challenge.

On the videos, that I am certain by now you want to watch, you will see this ritual repeated many times. This ritual is performed not only with spoons, but with oxen shoes and other large iron objects. What you don't see once the camera is off is that all these items are gathered up. As their name implies, Stealth Diggers are stealthy and do not leave trash behind. They refill dig holes and cover all ground disturbances. They live their name and do the hobby properly. We spent most of the rest of the afternoon hunting this site.

It was here, while in the barn site area, that I experienced a phenomenon that I had never before witnessed. It was fall in New Hampshire. There was a light breeze blowing through the trees towering around us. As I stood by the edge of the tree line, the air was filled with falling leaves. It was like standing in a snow fall of large, orange snow flakes. I stood mesmerized by the spectacle imagining this would be

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what it would be like in a snow globe that someone had agitated. I must have just stood there for two or three minutes taking it all in, marveling at this gift that my friends didn't even know they had given me. This was indeed, the finest birthday present ever!

Coming out of the dream-like state, I returned once again to the hunt. After finding numerous .38 revolver casings, I crossed back across the road to the side of the cellar hole. I wasn't doing so well after the spoon find. Looking over at Keebler, he holds up an oxen shoe. "Number 158," he said, "take this one back to Cliff." During this year he had found 158 of these things and I only needed one to get the second notch in the belt of the Siscatchiwah challenge. Digger Charlie knew of another cellar hole another quarter of a mile or so (uphill of course) so off we went. Unfortunately, Just Bob had to leave early so he bid his farewells and took off downhill. We found that there was a possible private property issue on this second hole so, respectful of that, turned back. Digger Charlie was the recipient of the good news that Lu had returned back to the Shack safely and was unharmed. We all gave a rousing cheer and were gladdened by the news. When you care about someone as we all feel about Charlie, we were each sharing in his pain of uncertainty.



At least it would be downhill to get back to the vehicles. I was learning about the construction of the walls from Keebler when we heard Digger Charlie yell, "Bingo!" Along the edge of what is called a road, which is barely a rock strewn hiking path out here, Digger Charlie had pinpointed a high number target. Keebler and I hurried to join the crowd around the spot. As Trooper Bri hadn't really found too much that day, Charlie graciously allowed Trooper Bri to recover this possible coin. Does this never end? Remember once

again, that Trooper Bri, like Jay Mo, wasn't with us yesterday either. As Bri unearthed the sure-to-be-a-coin target, it came as no surprise to the rest of us that it was a half dollar; a Kennedy half dollar to boot. "Turn it over," he was told. This revealed another obverse. "You turned it wrong," someone said, "turn it over again." After about the third time Trooper Bri got the point. Another successful gotcha event caught on video.

When we arrived at the vehicles, there were now two instead of three, as Just Bob had left earlier. We all squeezed into the two remaining vehicles for the return trip. I once again was relegated to the shotgun seat in KIT. We had been out all day

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long hunting hard and hiking hard as well so we were pretty hungry. No adventure with the Stealth Diggers would be complete without a stop at Sandwich Master. This sandwich emporium had been featured on a number of videos and I was anxious to give it a try. One sandwich, aptly named “The Dumpster” was 8 inches thick and had some of everything on it. It is built from: Chicken Fingers, deep fried mozzarella cheese sticks and fried battered onion rings topped with mozzarella cheese and marinara sauce served on a grilled sub roll. This was a favorite of many of the group. Good Heavens! We ate at the shop enjoying the food, the rest and the great company.

It was getting dark as we arrived back at the Stealth Shack. As we exited the vehicles, the air erupted with automatic weapon fire. We all just looked around, unflinching; me included, and said as one, “Thunder Chief!” I hadn’t even noticed his big yellow truck parked in the driveway. It is featured in the opening introduction of each SD video. How did I miss that? Too much work, too much fun and way too much sandwich I suppose. “Hell”, said John, “you guys didn’t even jump.”

We all went into the Shack except for Andrew, who left for a long drive home. Each of us, without exception, checked on Lu, who was lying docilely in his bed. Charlie said that Lu was acting like he does after a trip to the vet. We were all very happy to stroke Lu’s head, docile or not. Late arrival John and I were introduced and I gave him the bag of gifts I had brought for him. John is a fun, likable and powerfully built man with a wry sense of humor. His grip is vise-like and he liked guns. He is best known on the videos for his love of guns and his invisible dog (again, watch the videos). It just kept getting better.

John was the first person that Charlie paired up with when they began metal detecting together in 2013. It was yet another evening spent at the Stealth Shack talking finds, keeping an eye on Lu, talking detecting, music, the X-Files, planning for tomorrow’s adventure and whatever else came up.

I sat pretty much quiet at the end of the big table absorbing it all. Earlier I mentioned the trouble I generated, unintentionally of course, for Charlie. The Stealth Diggers have nearly 5,000 subscribers on their video channel and 3,000 followers on Facebook. As soon as Charlie checked his e-mail, and there were 20 orders for Stealth Diggers coffee mugs! One message was just a guy’s name and address, without a subject. “What’s this about?” Charlie wrote back. “Just send me one of those mugs



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and an invoice;" replied the guy, "I'll pay whatever it costs." All too soon the evening drew to a close. By now I didn't need Garmin™ to guide me back to the inn. I was feeling pretty much at home in Siscatchiwah, even in the dark.

Monday morning came in a tad warmer than the previous two days. Most of the core group had returned to their regular daytime jobs. Charlie, Henry, Kyle and JET met me at the Shack that morning. Lu was feeling a bit more like his old self. He kept looking to see if someone had left the door unlatched with our comings and goings. We all piled into KIT and enjoyed a short ride to the local Historical Society Museum.

Normally, the museum is not open on Monday, but Charlie had asked Karla, the curator, if a tour could be arranged for a guest from Colorado. The museum collection is housed in an old two-story house and the adjacent barn. There was much to see inside. One of my favorite collections was the large glass display case with



purple cloth on its shelves. Though it was filled to capacity, it held only a portion of the items that the Stealth Diggers had found and donated. We even got to go into the area signed, "Employees Only". It is here, Karla's office, where the research material, books and maps are stored. This is where Charlie had located the 1858 map of home sites, thereby locating many of today's cellar holes. The map showed not just the location but it named the family who lived in the homes.

That personal tie, reaching back in time through history, to associate an artifact with its owner 150 or 200 years past is the greatest thrill of metal detecting. Take a look at Episode #105, *The Lieutenant* to see what this means to those of us who hunt history. As Charlie often says, "It's the right thing to do."

Following the museum tour and getting to meet Karla, whom I had only known briefly through the videos, we moved down the road to an agricultural field. Charlie briefed us on the history of this plot of land and its ownership. He had been given permission to detect on it as a member of the Historical Society. I feel that this site was chosen, not just for its historical context, but to give old Spectrum Bill a break. It was an agricultural pasture and was very much like hunting out on the prairie. There were no ups or downs to be made this day. The thought was appreciated.

Keebler San was working parallel to the fence line closest to KIT. Keebler went on one of his famous orbits and was out of site. Digger Charlie was moving back and

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forth between Keebler's position and JET, who had started searching in the center of the field. I moved into the field several dozen yards from the fence line and started working parallel to Keebler San.

It didn't take me too long to complete the second part of the Siscatchiwah challenge. My first oxen shoe! In short order, I had a second. All I needed to complete the challenge was a colonial button. As hard as I hunted and listened, that button, any button for that matter, eluded me this day. The only way I will ever complete the challenge is to return to Siscatchiwah and start over again. Road trip. anyone?



We videoed several skit segments to be aired at a future time in the Stealth Time Continuum. Watch for them sometime around December or January. There will be no spoiler alerts here. On the way back to the Stealth Shack for the last time, Henry told a story of how the brakes on his vehicle failed on the very hill we were descending.

Back at the Shack, I loaded my gear into my own vehicle. Henry made me a gift of two colonial axe heads from the back of KIT, and Kyle gave me another oxen shoe for Cliff. Charlie said that he would come by the inn at 7:00pm to pick me up to meet with Henry and Kyle for dinner.

Right at 7pm, Charlie and JET, pulled up at the inn. We drove north a ways to Henry's house. To my pleasant surprise, Henry's wife Kathy was joining us for dinner. Henry handed me a jug of Vermont maple syrup that I had mentioned I was looking for; very nice! We all got into one vehicle, not KIT. Then Henry drove us to a restaurant in his town. It wasn't too busy, but as it was a Monday evening, the staff was a bit short also. I got the lucky seat, the one between Kathy and JET while Kyle, Charlie and Henry sat opposite us. There was sufficient time for us all to get better acquainted over drinks and appetizers. When the meals did come, I ate slowly to enjoy the company of these wonderful people as long as possible. Eventually the check arrived and it was time to leave. We were the only patrons left in the place. Charlie and Henry refused to let me pay anything so I covered the tip. It was the right thing to do.

Charlie and JET drove me back to the inn for my final night's stay. We bid our goodbyes, and Charlie asked me to keep him apprised on the progress of my return trip.

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I left for my brother's place in Groton, Connecticut the next morning. After spending a day and the evening with them, at sunrise, I was on the road again. Having never been to Gettysburg, I wanted to spend a day there. It was awesome! Gettysburg is a very special place and holds a special place in the history of the United States. No, I did not pull out a metal detector while I was there.

As I travelled, I was remembering those special three days spent with those very special guys, the Stealth Diggers. I listened to Charlie's new albums as I drove westward which gave me a feeling of nostalgia. I missed the guys just as soon as I left Siscatchiwah. In our correspondence as I returned to Colorado, Charlie noted that I had a big heart. That may be so, but after this trip it is a little smaller. I left a piece of my heart in a cellar hole in Siscatchiwah being cared for by my friends, the Stealth Diggers.



Entries - November Finds of the Month



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*That's all this month ~ Merry Christmas ~ find something good!*